

HEALTH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE

October 27, 2009

5:30 p.m.

Courthouse

MINUTES:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Bob Bullen
Commissioner Carol Cook
Commissioner Trey Gooch
Commissioner Will Jordan
Commissioner Allen McAdoo
Commissioner Ronald Williams
Commissioner Jeff Jordan, C

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ernest Burgess
Jeff Sandvig
Gary Clardy
John Ash
Dana Garrett
Hannah Lee
Becky Shelton

Chairman Jordan presided and called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. with five members being present at that time.

MINUTES:

"Commissioner W. Jordan moved, seconded by Commissioner Cook, to approve the minutes of the last meeting. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

BOE WORK SESSIONS TAPING:

Chairman J. Jordan advised it was his understanding starting with the next Board of Education work session, it would be recorded and televised.

COMMUNITY CARE REPORT:

The October 9, 2009 minutes of Community Care were presented for the use and information of the Committee. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Williams moved, seconded by Commissioner Cook, to approve the Community Care report as presented. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Dana Garrett presented the Health Department report for the use and information of the Committee. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Bullen moved, seconded by Commissioner Gooch, to approve the Health Department report as presented. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

SPECIAL PROJECTS REPORT:

Jeff Sandvig presented the written Special Projects report for the use and information of the Committee. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Cook moved, seconded by Commissioner Bullen, to approve the Special Projects report as presented. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

BOARD OF EDUCATION REPORT:

Jeff Sandvig presented the Board of Education report for the use and information of the Committee first presenting a General Purpose School budget amendment using \$21,506 in available regular education EA pay and \$4,396 for related benefits to cover additional hours for the federal bookkeeper in Accounting and minor corrections in classified pay or hours in Office of the Principal, 72410, and Human Resources. The next amendment budgets a \$34,345 grant from

Christie Houston Foundation to replace forty-one defibrillators. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Bullen moved, seconded by Commissioner W. Jordan, to approve amending \$25,902 in pay and benefits from regular education EA's to other classified staff as presented and amending \$34,345 to Account #44570, Contributions and Gifts, and \$34,345 to 72120-735, Health Equipment, for the Christie Houston Foundation Grant to replace defibrillators. This motion passed unanimously by roll call vote."

The next matter presented was a proposal for occupancy sensors for lighting systems with Excel Energy Group as the second part of an energy conservation plan. Rutherford County Schools are eligible for a \$741,480 Energy Efficient Schools Initiative Grant (EESI) from the State. The grant would cover 31.7% of the \$2,337,515 project. There are two financing possibilities for the remaining \$1,596,035 including financing through EESI of \$500,000 at 0% for seven years and the balance at 3% for seven years for an effective annual rate of 2.08% for seven years or a bond issue.

The Committee was advised the guaranteed annual savings from the occupancy sensors would be \$186,731. Excel Energy Group has estimated annual payments of \$246,188 for seven years. Each of the next seven years, the school system's expenditures for the sensors would cost \$59,457 more than the annual savings. However, the original energy efficient lighting upgrade is already saving \$135,711 per year in excess of the project payment. In 2013, the bonds for the original lighting upgrade will be paid off and the \$690,229 in principal and interest will be extinguished resulting in a positive cash flow from both projects of \$814,281 per year. In 2016, the total annual savings for both projects will be \$1,060,469 at the current electric rates.

Mayor Burgess advised he supported the proposal and the savings will justify the expenditure. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Bullen moved, seconded by Commissioner Cook, to approve the Excel Energy Group \$2,337,515 proposal for occupancy sensors contingent on State approval of the system's Efficient Schools Initiative Grant of \$741,480 and the County Commission's approval of financing the \$1,596,035 balance. This motion passed unanimously by roll call vote."

Commissioner Bullen advised he had received complaints on the Oakland Middle School construction being in a basin and flooding concerns and asked Mr. Clardy to respond. Mr. Clardy advised the site has been engineered to drain with a back up system and generator. There is also a detention pond on site. Mr. Clardy advised he was confident the engineering was appropriate to meet needed standards and the school will not flood. The project meets all State and City requirements. The Committee was advised Mr. Clardy will address the December Commission meeting on the progress of the middle schools construction and Central Magnet renovations.

Dr. John Ash, principal of Central Magnet School, next addressed the Committee on sports to be offered at the school. Dr. Ash advised the foremost emphasis will be on academics. Football and wrestling will not be offered due to facilities that would be needed for the same that Central does not have but Dr. Ash advised all other sports would be offered including soccer, basketball, tennis and cross-country and he felt adequate facilities were available. Dr. Ash advised although they would try to keep the middle and high school programs separated he anticipated having both JV and varsity programs.

Commissioner W. Jordan advised he thought the school would only have token athletics with the focus on academics and anticipated

requests for coaching supplements and a new gym.

Commissioner McAdoo advised Superintendent Gill previously stated any student at Central Magnet that wanted to do sports would go to the school he/she was zoned for to do sports activities and inquired when this policy change was made. Dr. Ash advised he was unaware of when the policy was changed but was more concerned that a school would be upset at losing an athlete and not as concerned about losing an academic.

Commissioner W. Jordan advised he voted to spend \$2,400,000 on the school but he had been told there would be no sports. Commissioner McAdoo advised the cost of the project was a concern and inquired as to the cost of providing sports. Dr. Ash advised there would be coach supplements and uniform costs but sports tend to be self-supporting across the county. Additionally, Dr. Ash advised all schools require wellness and PE credits. In his research of magnet schools across the country, Dr. Ash has not found any magnet school with no sports offered.

Commissioner Bullen advised sports is not the main emphasis in a magnet school but is a good outlet for a well rounded person and he thought the program was on the right track.

Commissioner McAdoo advised if the Commission had been advised on the front end the program would have sports they could have put the magnet program at an existing high school and avoided the expense. Dr. Ash advised Central has character to exploit as a magnet school and the money being spent on the building would have had to be spent no matter who used the building. Central will offer a unique experience and environment but other schools likewise have a lot to offer.

Commissioner W. Jordan advised he supported the magnet program and acknowledged the decision to offer sports was made by the School Board and thought a School Board representative should have attended this discussion.

Commissioner Bullen advised the Commission does not need to set the instructional programs of the schools as it is unqualified to do so.

Commissioner W. Jordan advised he only asked when the policy on sports at Central Magnet was changed and he felt he was entitled to know.

Chairman J. Jordan advised the only money allocated to sports is the renovation of the locker room and he likewise didn't vote with the intention of funding football, a field with lighting, etc. as this school is located in the historic district.

Chairman J. Jordan will ask the School Superintendent and Board Chairman to attend the next meeting regarding sports at Central Magnet.

RESCHEDULE NEXT MEETING:

Chairman Jordan ask if the November meeting could be moved from the 24th to the 19th. This was agreeable with the Committee but the meeting will commence at 6:00 p.m. instead of 5:30 p.m. The December meeting will remain on the 22nd at 5:30 p.m.

There appearing to be no further business to come before the Committee, Chairman J. Jordan declared the meeting adjourned at 6:53 p.m.

JEFF JORDAN, Chairman